



**AIDS**  
**Alliance**  
for Children, Youth & Families

# **Sexuality Education and HIV-Positive Youth**

*Lesson Plans for Homophobia Forum  
CHAMP/LGBT Community Center  
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**Diana K. Bruce**  
**Director of Policy & Government Affairs**  
**AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families**  
**Washington, DC**

# AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families

- National organization dedicated solely to women, children, youth and families affected by and at risk for HIV/AIDS.
- Ensure that women, children, youth, and families and their care providers are heard in the public debate on AIDS.
- Make this happen through education and training, research, and advocacy.
- Vision that no voice be diminished in spirit or in volume because of age, race, gender, or sexual orientation.



# Status of HIV

- More than one million Americans living with HIV/AIDS
- About 40,000 new infections each year
- Disproportionate impact on youth, communities of color and LGBT community



# More Positive Youth

- At least 15,000 youth HIV-infected
- Increase in HIV infections among youth aged 15-24; 13% of new infections
- Perinatally infected growing up
- HIV-positive youth need specific prevention messages



# HIV In Our Youth

- Most youth HIV infections in young women of color & young gay/bi/MSM men
  - African Americans: 15% of American teens; 65% of new teen AIDS cases
  - Latinos: 16% of American teens; 20% of new teen AIDS cases
  - Teen girls: 1/2 of new teen HIV cases; women aged 20 to 24: 37% of new HIV cases in their age group



# Challenges to Youth of Color & Gay/Bisexual/MSM Youth

- Stigma or fear of condemnation/discrimination
- Historically poor access to care
- Negative perceptions of the health care system
- Self-perceptions of sexual orientation
- Youth perspectives that make it difficult to assess risks and critically understand and adopt preventive behaviors

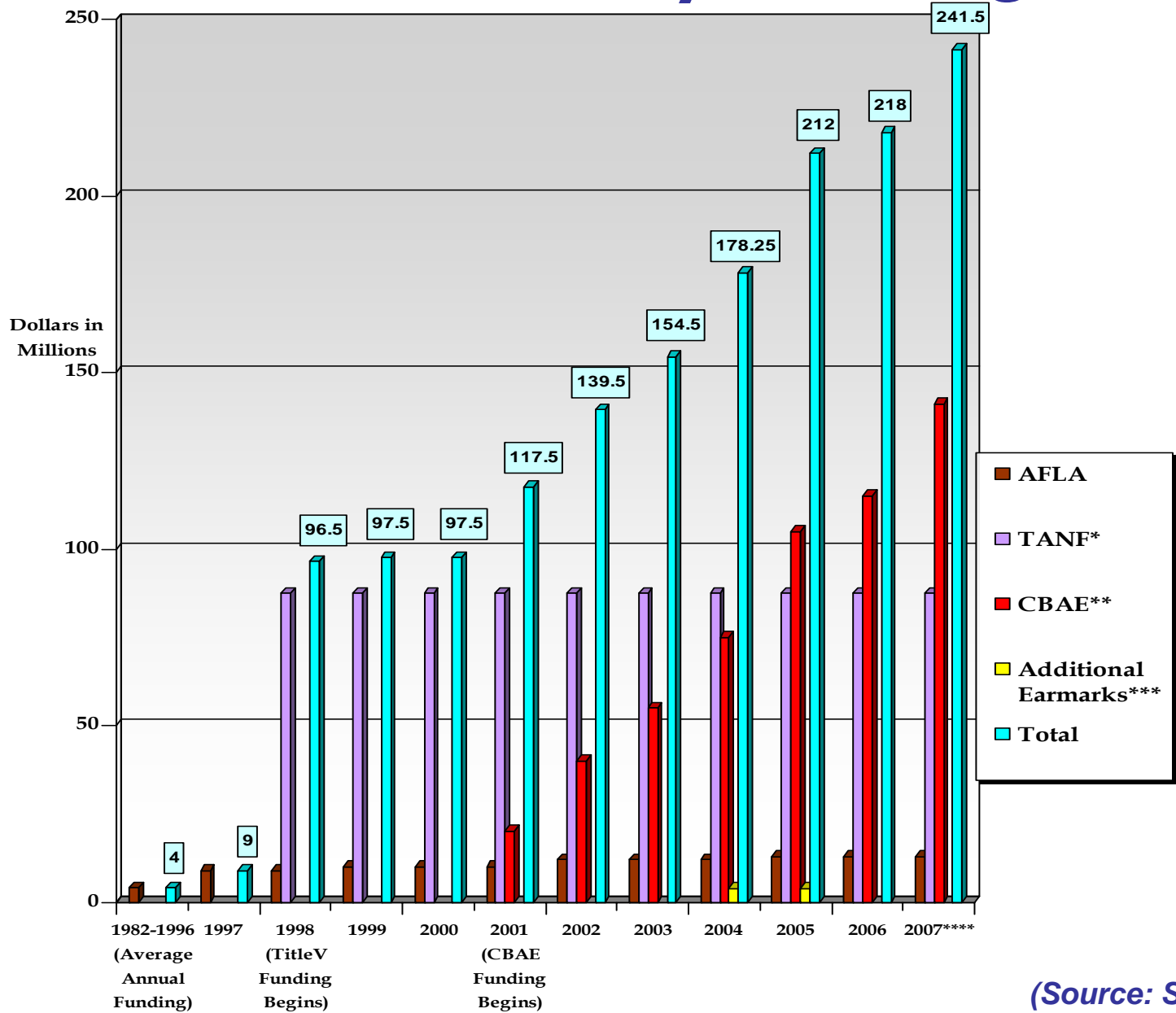


# Three Federal Streams of Abstinence-Only Funding

- Adolescent Family Life Act (1982)
  - \$13 million
- Title V (1998; part of TANF)
  - \$50 million federal + state match = \$87.5m
- Community-Based Abstinence Education (CBAE) (2001)
  - \$113 million (FY 06)



# Abstinence-Only Funding



(Source: SIECUS)

# Eight-Point Definition of Abstinence

*Purple indicates potential for anti-gay teaching*

1. has as its exclusive purpose, teaching the social, physiological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity;
2. teaches that abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage is the expected standard for all school age children;
3. teaches that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain way to avoid out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and other associated health problems;
4. teaches that a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in the context of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity;



# Eight-Point Definition of Abstinence

(con't)

5. teaches that sexual activity outside of the context of marriage may have harmful psychological and physical effects;
6. teaches that bearing children out-of-wedlock is likely to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents, and society;
7. teaches young people how to reject sexual advances and how alcohol and drug use increases vulnerability to sexual advances; and
8. teaches the importance of attaining self-sufficiency before engaging in sexual activity.



# New Abstinence Definition

*2006 CBAE grant guidance*

- Abstinence is “voluntarily choosing not to engage in sexual activity before marriage. Sexual activity refers to any kind of genital contact or sexual stimulation between two persons, including, but not limited to, sexual intercourse.”
- Marriage must be defined “only as the legal union between a man and a woman as a husband and wife, and the word ‘spouse’ refers only to a person of the opposite sex who is a husband or a wife.”

<http://www.acfhhs.gov/grants/pdf/HHS-2006-ACF-ACYF-AE-0099.pdf>



# Marriage in the U.S.

- Same-sex marriage legal only in MA
- Responders to 2000 U.S. Census who had not been married (>15 yrs old):

<u>Black</u>	<u>Hispanic</u>	<u>White, Non-Hispanic</u>	<u>Asian</u>
Men: 46.8%	Men: 41.0%	Men: 28.5%	Men: 34.5%
Women: 42.3%	Women: 31.0%	Women: 21.5%	Women: 24.0%



# LGBT Youth in School

- According to the Society of Adolescent Medicine:
  - 2.5% of high school students identify as gay, lesbian or bisexual
  - One in ten grapple with issues of sexual orientation



# AIDS Alliance's Positive Youth Project

- Purpose:
  - Raise awareness of HIV-positive youth and their sexuality education needs
  - Elevate their voices
- Activities:
  - Evaluate how abstinence-only and comprehensive curricula teach about HIV disease, people living with HIV and LGBT issues
  - Collect personal stories and viewpoints of HIV-positive youth
  - Collect stories of HIV-positive parents of young people



# Examples of Abstinence-Only Teachings

- About HIV Risk:
  - “AIDS can be transmitted by skin-to-skin contact.” – *Reasonable Reasons to Wait*
- About People living with HIV/AIDS:
  - “While AIDS is fatal and has no cure, the behavior that leads to AIDS can be prevented through high personal standards and strong character.” – *Sex Respect*
- About LGBT Issues:
  - “Many homosexual activists are frustrated and desperate over their own situation and those of loved ones. Many are dying, in part, due to ignorance.” – *Facing Reality*



# An HIV-Positive Youth Voice

“Abstinence education deters my peers from discovering their status and does not adequately teach individuals already infected with HIV the ways in which we can avoid transmitting the virus.

“Beyond being alienated by programs that do not portray the possibility for a healthy lifestyle with HIV, those like myself who are aware of their HIV status gain little from Abstinence Education.

“The need for factual information about safer sex is increasingly important, as children infected with HIV by their mothers during the early epidemic in the United States may now be sexually active adults.”

– Max, 22



# Policy Developments

- Rep. Waxman Report
- Rep. Manzullo letter to GAO
- Society of Adolescent Medicine Report
- American Academy of Pediatrics Recommendation
- GAO letter to HHS about condom efficacy
- Mathematica Report – Where is it?
- States responding differently
  - Ohio report
  - State Health Depts. reviewing TANF programs
  - PA, ME, AZ rejection of federal dollars, NM, RI and a few others getting close; CA never took it



# Legislative Developments

- **Responsible Education About Life (REAL)**
  - Authorizes grants to states to conduct comprehensive sexuality education programs
  - House: Representative Barbara Lee (D-CA) – 136 cosponsors
  - Senate: Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ) – 11 cosponsors
- **Medical Accuracy**
- **Senate and House bills flat-fund abstinence-only for fiscal year 2007**



**For More Information...**

**AIDS Alliance for Children, Youth & Families**

1600 K Street NW, Suite 200

Washington, DC 20006

202-785-3564

[www.aids-alliance.org](http://www.aids-alliance.org)

[dbruce@aid-alliance.org](mailto:dbruce@aid-alliance.org)





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